

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 OTTAWA 03281 132105Z

11
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 PPT-01 L-03 H-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 /050 W

----- 120799

R 132035Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 760
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OTTAWA 3281

DEPT FOR NEA/ARP AND SCS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CGEN, PFOR, CA, SA
SUBJ: CANADIAN REACTION TO SAUDI ARABIAN VISA
REQUIREMENTS

1. CANADIAN NEWS MEDIA AUGUST 11-12 CARRIED COMMENTARY
CRITICAL OF GOC BECAUSE CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION,
LONDON ALLEGEDLY WAS PROVIDING CERTIFICATES OF
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION OF CANADIAN CITIZENS WISHING TO
VISIT SAUDI ARABIA. GIST OF CRITICISM WAS THAT
BY CERTIFYING SOME CITIZENS AS NON-JEWISH, GOVERNMENT
IS ABETTING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THOSE WHO ARE
JEWISH.

2. EMBASSY HAD NUMEROUS QUERIES REGARDING U.S.
PRACTICE. CALLERS WERE TOLD THAT USG WILL NOT CERTIFY
A CITIZEN'S RACE OR RELIGION EITHER POSITIVELY
OR NEGATIVELY. IF A PRIVATE CITIZEN REQUESTED THAT
HIS OR HER OWN STATEMENT OF RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION BE
NOTARIZED, HOWEVER, NOTARIAL SERVICE WOULD HAVE TO BE
PROVIDED. AFTER CONFERRING WITH NEA/ARP, EMBASSY ALSO
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 OTTAWA 03281 132105Z

INFORMED EXTAFF CONSULAR AFFAIRS THAT SAUDI EMBASSY

WASHINGTON DOES NOT DEMAND ANY DOCUMENTATION TO
SUPPORT VISA APPLICANT'S OWN STATEMENT ON
APPLICATION FORM.

3. CBC NATIONAL TV NEWS AUGUST 11 CARRIED COMMENTARY,
"THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY SAID FLATLY THAT IT
WOULD NOT DO THE SAME THING (I.E. ISSUE CERTIFICATE)
FOR A U.S. CITIZEN. THE U.S. REFUSES TO DESIGNATE
THE RACE OR RELIGION OF ANY TRAVELLING AMERICAN,
AND THAT IS THAT SO FAR AS THEIR GOVERNMENT IS
CONCERNED."

4. CHIEF OF EXTAFF COUNSELAR POLICY DIVISION, BUICK,
INFORMED EMBOFF AUGUST 13 THAT ISSUE INVOLVED WAS IN
FACT NOTARIAL SERVICE PERFORMED AT REQUEST OF
PRIVATE CITIZENS, RATHER THAN GOC ISSUANCE OF
CERTIFICATE OF AILLIATION. SAUDI EMBASSY LONDON DOES
REQUIRE SUCH A DOCUMENT. HE SAID THAT BECAUSE OF
CRITICISM, CANADIAN MISSIONS HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO
CEASE PROVIDING NOTARIAL SERVICE OF THIS PARTICULAR
KIND IMMEDIATELY. BUICK EXPLAINED THAT CANADIAN
REGULATIONS REGARDING CONSULAR NOTARIALS ARE VERY
VAGUE, BUT GENERALLY ARE PERMISSIVE RATHER THAN
OBLIGATORY. HE EXPECTS THAT IT WILL BE NECESSARY
TO RE-WRITE THE REGULATIONS IN VIEW OF PRESENT
CONTROVERSY.

5. COMMENT: IN SPEAKING TO CBC, EMBASSY SPOKESMAN
DID NOT VOLUNTEER INFORMATION ABOUT NOTARIAL
SERVICES AND REPORTER DID NOT ASK ABOUT THEM. USG
"LOOKS GOOD" IN MEDIA TREATMENT PARTLY BECAUSE OF
MEDIA'S MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT WHAT CANADIAN CONSULAR
OFFICIALS WERE ACTUALLY DOING AND FAILURE TO RECOGNIZE
DISTINCTION BETWEEN CERTIFICATION AND NOTARIAL. WHILE
WE HOPE MATTER HAS BEEN LAID TO REST, DEPARTMENT
SHOULD NOTE POTENTIAL FOR EMBARRASSEMENT IF MEDIA
PURSUE QUESTION OF WHETHER USG PERFORMS (OR WOULD
PERFORM) NOTARIAL SERVICES SUCH AS THOSE THAT
CANADIAN MISSIONS ARE BEING ORDERED TO CEASE.
ENDERS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 OTTAWA 03281 132105Z

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLICIES, VISAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976OTTAWA03281
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760312-1067
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760856/aaaabwat.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 APR 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CANADIAN REACTION TO SAUDI ARABIAN VISA REQUIREMENTS
TAGS: CGEN, PFOR, CA, SA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006